



FROM THE PASTOR

Salt Talk

You are the salt of the earth. Matthew 5:13

On July 4th, the citizens of the United States celebrate the birthday of their country. What should be our distinctive role in this celebration? As grateful children of our heavenly Father, we will, of course, want to thank Him for the uncounted blessings He has showered on our land. Truly, He has blessed us beyond measure.

But we will want to do more than merely give thanks. Our Lord, who gave His life for us, has told us that we are to be “the salt of the earth.” That applies not only to our private lives as individual Christians but also to our civic lives as Christian citizens. As salt, we are to help preserve the health of our nation; we are to help prevent the spread of corruption.

How desperately our nation needs the salt of Christian witness and Christian action! Dishonesty, greed, profanity, divorce, and sins of sexual impurity are all about us. In concert with other God-fearing citizens we are to do all within our power to stay the spread of moral decay which threatens our beloved United States. Salt that is not applied is worthless. We are to pray, to speak, to give, to work for the welfare of the land we love. May all of us at Open Bible be the salt of the earth as God intended us to be. And with the hymn writer may we sing, “God bless our native land, Firm may she ever stand!

On July 7th, Open Bible will have a patriotic service, where we will focus in on the freedoms we enjoy in the United States, the freedom we enjoy in Christ, and the blood that was shed to obtain those freedoms. Our service will begin with the Vets of our congregation carrying in the flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the rest of the congregation will join in the Pledge to the Cross. Patriotic music, Scripture readings, and a message based on a Christian’s relationship to government will

be part of our service. We will ask for God’s mercy and help for our country. What a great way to begin the month of July!

The month of July will also be a time of planning for me, as I look to plan our fall Bible study opportunities, finalize our 10th Anniversary service, and Mission Festival. In addition, I look forward to conducting several New Life in Christ studies with those looking to learn more about what our Lutheran Church teaches from Scripture. Thus, no summer doldrums at Open Bible! Time to be the salt of the earth!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The alarm on the clock radio goes (am I dating myself or what?) off indicating it’s time for you to rise to face another day. Maybe you have an appointment to keep or something special planned. As we begin our first movements to get ourselves up we feel that all too familiar twinge in our neck or lower back or maybe our knees telling us we over did it yesterday. Maybe it takes a while for our eyes to focus to the light of a new day. Regardless of what seems to cause us a bit of discomfort, the reminder is constantly there that we are growing a little older and all our parts don’t quite function the same way they did years ago.

Things change, we change, but God never does. Although the calendar indicates the years are passing us by, in the eyes of our God we are and always will be his children. As a child of God you are never alone. Your shepherd is with you at all times. You never have to wonder where He is. Even when you cannot see Him, He always keeps His eyes upon you. He comforts you with His strong presence in times of sorrow and grief. He walks closely with you, reassuring you throughout the journey that He still loves you and is with you. He knows your every need. He knows you will grow weary in your pilgrimage with Him. He realizes there are times you need rest and/or to be refreshed. Sometimes you even need to be held or carried by your Shepherd.

I am sure most all of us have seen the poem entitled "Footprints". If you haven't, it's about a man who has a dream. In his dream he is walking along the beach with the Lord. As he walks, scenes of his life flash in front of him. In most of the scenes he notices two sets of footprints in the sand. At the most difficult times in his life he notices only one set of footprints. He questions the Lord as to why this occurs. The Lord reply's, my precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you".

In John 14: 1-3 we have Jesus promise that this will be the case throughout our lives. He will always care for us. He declares with the tenderness of a parent to a child: "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; I would not tell you this if it were not true. I am going there to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me so that you may be where I am going".

God promises to uphold and strengthen us in every kind of affliction, disappointment and frustration. We will never escape the inevitability of growing older. But as we do our vision should improve, not our vision of earth, but our vision of heaven. Maybe that pain we experience sometimes in our neck should come from looking heavenward toward the Lord above, from who comes every good gift, and who has redeemed us to Himself through our Savior Jesus. And maybe that soreness in our knees should be from the humble repentance and worship we do daily as an expression of the love and thankfulness we have in our hearts for the grace and mercy of our loving Savior.

Many people will enter and leave our lives over the course of our lifetime, but only God will leave everlasting footprints on our souls.

May God continue to carry you in His loving arms and may His angels watch over you.

God's blessings to all,
Greg Wendorf

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Your church council met on Thursday, June 20th for its monthly meeting. The following items were discussed and acted on:

The treasurer's report showed a negative monthly balance for the first time this year. This shortfall was

due to our associate members returning home and the expense of the new pew/chairs. We were in the red to the tune of -\$5,705. However, our year to date balance shows that we are still in the black by \$34,457. The Lord has blessed us.

Last month we asked for feedback on what to do with some of our excess money in the checking account. Due to this feedback the council approved putting \$5,000 of this amount towards the mortgage and another \$5,000 into the Rising Savior statue fund.

On August 4th we will be celebrating our 10th anniversary. Everything is set to go for this celebration.

Open Bible will be privileged to have a world missionary with us on August 11th. Pastor Josh Sternhagen from our mission in Antigua will be our guest preacher. He will also have a presentation during the social hour on what is happening in this mission field in the Caribbean. A door offering will be taken to help support St John's Church in Antigua. We hope that this will be the start of an annual Mission Festival at Open Bible.

Discussion was held on what we should do now that the NIV 84 Bibles are no longer being published. The council asked the Worship Committee to sturdy this concern. A recommendation will be forth coming.

The organizational flow chart for the congregation was tweaked somewhat in order to streamline our administration. The following changes were made:

- The Fellowship Committee will now report directly to the president.
- The Altar Guild will now report to the Worship Committee as will the choir director and the head organist.

The council would appreciate the head of each organization have all bills signed by the council member who oversees that committee and would like to remind all committee members making purchases to use our tax exempt number.

The council will not be meeting in July. We will meet in August as we gear up for the fall schedule.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee has been working on two special services for July and August. July's special service is a Patriotic Service that will be held on Sunday, July 7th. We are asking our veterans in attendance to meet in the fellowship hall prior to the start of the

service to bring in the US flag. This is strictly a volunteer activity. Once the flag is in the congregation will recite the Pledge of Alliance followed by the pledge to the Christian flag led by Pastor. This pledge will be printed out in the service folder.

The second special service is our 10th anniversary service. This will be held on Sunday, August 4th. All three of Open Bible pastors will participate in this service. The Mission Counselor, Pastor Schuppe, will be the guest preacher. The worship will be followed by a catered dinner and a power point presentation on the history of Open Bible.

I am sure many of our members are accustomed to Mission Festivals. Well, Open Bible will hold its first mission festival on Sunday, August 11th. We are privileged to have with us one of the missionaries from Antigua. Pastor Josh Sternhagen and his family will be ending up their furlough and will be at their parents and in-laws, Ted and Sandy Hahm. Pastor Sternhagen has agreed to be our guest speaker for this service. He will also have a presentation on our mission work on this Caribbean island. A door offering will be gathered to help this mission endeavor.

We hope that all full time members will be able to attend these three special services.

As you have probably heard, the present NIV 84 Bible edition will no longer be published. So what translation of the Bible will our Synod choose to use in its publications? This question will be debated and hopefully resolved this summer at the Synod Convention. In the meanwhile the Worship Committee will look into this concern and come up with a recommendation for the council on how we should proceed to get more Bibles to fill our new seating.

Our worship committee will not be meeting in July.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Eleven members of Open Bible enjoyed a two hour cruise down the Withalacoochee River this past Thursday. Captain Mike gave us much information in regards to the flora and fauna of this river. Following the cruise the group had lunch at Red's Restaurant. A fun time was had by all.

This event ends the Fellowship Committee's activities for a couple of months. Plans are under way to provide a number of social activities from September - May. We

are still looking for one or two couples to join the committee and eventually take over the leadership. It is not a hard committee to serve on and it is fun to find activities for our membership. If you would like to get involved, please contact Ron or Diane Brutlag.

We would like to thank our members who opened up their homes to house the teen group from Minnesota. We really appreciate your willingness to help. A big thank you also is due the families that supplied cookies for the two meals we served the group.

Have an enjoyable summer. Stay cool and we will let you know of our first fall activity. Blessings to all our members.

UPCOMING AUGUST EVENTS

PLAN AHEAD FOR OUR CHRISTIAN FAMILY COMING EVENTS Sunday, August 4th & Sunday August 11th, 2013

Mark your calendars now! Save these dates. Spend time in special services with Guest Preachers. Followed by exciting and very interesting power point presentations that you won't want to miss along with great food and fellowship.

SUNDAY AUGUST 4th – Pastor Edward Schuppe (WELS Mission Counselor) will be our guest speaker. Pastors Schulz, Dale and Meier will conduct the service as we thank God in the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Open Bible Lutheran Church.

"Not to us, O LORD...to your name be the glory..."

Psalm 115: 1

A catered meal will be enjoyed by all after the service. A sign up sheet will be in the kitchen pass through on July 7th & July 14th for the meal. Please sign up and indicate the number that will be staying for the meal. We need to submit a count to the caterer in July. After the meal we will return to the sanctuary where a power point presentation of the history of Open Bible Lutheran Church. An amazing story will unfold before your eyes and your ears will hear how The Lord gathered a small flock of His believers to carry out His plan.

SUNDAY AUGUST 11th – Pastor Josh Sternhagen, WELS missionary in Antigua, in the West Indies, in the Leeward Islands, will be our guest to preach on his call on this island. Pastor Sternhagen and his wife, Kristin will share their furlough time and enlighten us on their experiences of life working in a missionary field.

See and hear how God's believers in Antigua worship Our Savior and how the great commission is being carried out on our behalf.

Your taste buds will delight in a large variety of summer salads for lunch, while enjoying loving fellowship with the Open Bible Family.

Run, hop, skip or jump right over to your calendar and circle these dates:

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4th and SUNDAY AUGUST 11th

KEEP SENIORS SAFE AT HOME

NEW In-Home Technology Options



How do families make sure their senior loved ones are safe at home if they can't be there? And how do they know that their elderly loved ones are taking their vital medications?

Two new programs from Christian Family Solutions Home Care offer assistance for seniors who wish to remain in their homes and peace of mind for their families. The **Personal Emergency Response System** provides help with just the push of a button, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The system works with a waterproof call button using either a neck pendant or wristband, and utilizes certified care specialists who assist when an alert is received. The **Medication Management System** helps seniors take the right medications at the right time, featuring a medication unit with visual and audible alerts. The system also includes 24-hour customer support and communication with family members if a medication time is missed.

For more information on these programs, which are part of our healing and helping ministry of compassion, please contact Bryan Polinske at 888-685-9522 or bpolinske@wlcfs.org. Consultation regarding these services is also available to those utilizing the Member Assistance Program.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



- Diane Brutlag – 2
- Renda Mackey – 4
- Joanie Musiel – 6
- Sally Stocks – 6
- Janice Walters – 10
- John Bielefeldt – 13
- Laci Blanco – 13
- Charlotte Cummings – 14
- Dorothy Draeger – 28
- Bob Matthias – 29
- Liliane Pergola – 31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



- Dave & Nancy Gonja – 3
- Del & Linda Draeger – 6
- Shane & Adrianna Thise – 21
- Dan & Joan Blaho – 22

